

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A rubber composition which, when vulcanized, is usable in a safety support intended to be mounted on a wheel rim inside a tire, the composition comprising:

- (a) a diene elastomer,
- (b) particles of an  $\alpha$ -olefinic thermoplastic polymer having a melting point greater than or equal to 150°C, in an amount of 5 to 30 parts by weight per 100 parts diene elastomer (phr), wherein the mean size by weight of the particles is between 30  $\mu$ m and 500  $\mu$ m,
- (c) greater than 60 phr of reinforcing filler, and
- (d) from 3 to 8 phr of sulphur,

wherein the particles of thermoplastic polymer are dispersed within the diene elastomer.

2. (Original) The rubber composition of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing filler comprises greater than 50% reinforcing white filler.

3. (Original) The rubber composition of claim 2, wherein the reinforcing white filler is silica in an amount ranging from 60 to 80 phr.

4. (Original) The rubber composition of claim 2, further comprising a polysulphurized alkoxysilane reinforcing white filler/elastomer bonding agent.

5. (Original) The rubber composition of claim 1, wherein the  $\alpha$ -olefinic polymer is isotactic polypropylene.

6. (Original) The rubber composition of claim 1, wherein the diene elastomer is either natural rubber or synthetic polyisoprene.

7. (Original) The rubber composition of claim 1, wherein the diene elastomer is a blend of:

- Al
- (a) natural rubber or synthetic polyisoprene in an amount greater than or equal to 60 phr, and
  - (b) a homopolymer obtained by polymerization of a conjugated diene monomer having from 4 to 12 carbon atoms or a copolymer obtained by copolymerization of one or more conjugated dienes with each other or with one or more vinyl aromatic compounds having from 8 to 20 carbon atoms, in an amount of less than or equal to 40 phr.

8. (Original) The rubber composition of claim 7, wherein the blend comprises approximately 60 phr of natural rubber and approximately 40 phr of polybutadiene.

9. (Original) The rubber composition of claim 1, wherein the composition exhibits an M10 elasticity modulus at 10% deformation which is greater than 10 MPa.

10. (Original) The rubber composition of claim 1, wherein the  $\alpha$ -olefinic polymer is dispersed in the elastomer in the form of substantially spherical particles.

11-26. (Withdrawn)